

# Trustee Candidate Pack



November 2024



The Aurora Trust is an endowed philanthropic foundation set up by Sarah Butler-Sloss in 1989. It is one of The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts (SFCT). Sarah is Chair of the Board of Trustees, and the other trustees are Claire Birch and Grace Yu.

The objects of the Trust as given in the Trust Deed are for general charitable purposes, and the Trust's primary focus is tackling climate change through the following programme areas of giving:

- Stopping Deforestation
- Connecting People with Nature
- Sustainable Farming
- Ashden – Climate Solutions in Action
- Climate Change Collaboration\*

\* Since 2009, The Aurora Trust has partnered with two other trusts, the JJ Charitable Trust and the Mark Leonard Trust in the Climate Change Collaboration. Their mission is to support efforts which help stabilise global temperatures to 1.5 degrees, restore our natural world, and support a regenerative economy through encouraging/disrupting the business-as-usual approach of our financial and investment systems.

Find out more about the [Aurora Trust](#) and the [Climate Change Collaboration](#) on our [website](#).



Grant proposals to The Aurora Trust and the Climate Change Collaboration are invited or initiated by the Trust, and the Trust prefers to support approaches that catalyse substantial change. During the financial year ending 4 April 2024, trustees approved 52 grants with a total value of over £2.6 million. You can find out more about the trust and the Climate Change Collaboration on their websites.

As well as grant-making, the trustees have two investment committees: one to oversee the endowment, and the other to oversee an impact-first philanthropic impact investment fund that is primarily focused on investing in the Ashden Awards' winners and finalists. The Aurora Trust also partners with four other SFCT trusts on impact investing for commercial return. Around 15% of the endowment is invested through that process.

In 2022, trustees adopted an investment policy for their endowment, which was to align the investments with achieving the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global temperatures to well-below 2 degrees. This means excluding fossil fuels and other high carbon investments, increasing investments in renewable energy and selecting funds and companies that demonstrate alignment with the Paris Agreement. Trustees review progress against the investment policy at investment meetings.



## The Role

The trustees of The Aurora Trust would like to appoint a new trustee with a passion and commitment for sustainability and expertise in finance and investing, including impact investing, for a term of three years and ideally two terms of three years. This is a voluntary, non-executive role.

## Key responsibilities

The new trustee will take a lead on the Trust's finance and investments, chairing the Trust endowment investment meetings (one per year) and the Philanthropic Impact Investment Fund (four meetings per year), and participating in the collaboration on impact investing for commercial return with the other SFCT trusts (two meetings per year).

The new trustee will also be asked to join the annual AGM and quarterly trustee meetings.



## Person Specification

With a commitment to the charitable purposes of the Aurora Trust, you will have experience and knowledge in the following areas:

- Managing impact investment portfolios to produce environmental, social and financial returns as well as general investment portfolios.
- Investing in early-stage businesses, particularly in “sustainability” sectors, particularly in renewable energy in the UK and the global south.
- Knowledge and interest in most/some of the Aurora Trust’s grant giving programmes.
- Committed to the Nolan Principles of public life.
- Knowledge of charity governance and the difference between executive and non -executive roles.
- Willingness to dedicate sufficient time and effort to fulfil role.



## The Role

### **Time commitment**

We estimate that this is a commitment of approximately 14 days a year, including the time to read papers and deal with email correspondence.

Meetings take place on weekdays during standard working hours, online or in person at The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts' office in central London.

Initial commitment will be for a term of three years, and ideally two terms of three years.

### **Remuneration**

This is a voluntary, non-executive role. Reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out the role will be reimbursed.



## Application Process

To apply for the role, please send a CV and a cover letter to [people@sfct.org.uk](mailto:people@sfct.org.uk) which explains why you would be suitable for the role and your interest and motivation in applying for the position.

Application deadline: 5 December 2024.

Longlisted applicants will be invited to meet online with trust staff, Sian Ferguson and Darren Chin during w/c 16 December 2024 for a discussion about the role and to find out more about them.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with trustees and CEO of SFCT. Interviews will take place in person on 8 and 14 January.

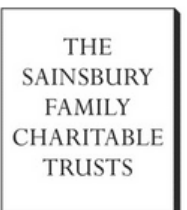
For an informal conversation about the role, please contact Jemma Clements, Senior People Partner at [jemma.clements@sfct.org.uk](mailto:jemma.clements@sfct.org.uk)



We want everyone who works for us to feel welcomed, respected, supported and valued. We believe everyone should be treated with equity, and that diversity of perspectives, backgrounds and experiences helps us achieve better things in our work.

Disabled applicants are invited to contact us in confidence at any point during the recruitment process to discuss steps that could be taken to overcome operational difficulties presented by the role, or if any adjustments or support are required regarding the recruitment process.

Please contact the People team at [people@sfct.org.uk](mailto:people@sfct.org.uk).





# The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts

The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts is the operating office of 20 independent grant-making trusts and charitable companies established by members of three generations of the Sainsbury family. It exists to provide economies of scale in the management of the trusts' activities. It does not make grants; only the individual trusts do so. The trusts' support for charitable causes over more than 50 years represents one of the leading examples of sustained philanthropy in Britain.

Each trust and charitable company is an independent legal entity with its own separate and autonomous board of trustees, actively led by an individual member of the Sainsbury family. Each trust's charitable giving follows the family member's own interests and priorities. The trusts only fund registered charities or activities with clearly defined charitable purposes. They do not make grants directly to individuals. The trustees take an active role in their grant-making, employing specialist staff and advisers to research their areas of interest and bring forward suitable proposals. Many of the trusts work closely with their chosen beneficiaries over a long period to achieve particular objectives.

Further details and information can be found [here](#).